

Original Signed by Arthur-Jean B. Williams, August 1, 2003

Don R. Knowles
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Knowles:

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) respectfully requests the initiation of Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7(a)(2) consultation. This consultation request addresses 2 Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESU) of Pacific salmon and steelhead that have been listed as Federally endangered or threatened, and one pesticide - Atrazine. The ESUs involved in this request for consultation are: Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho Salmon and Central Valley California Steelhead.

We have determined that registered uses of Atrazine will have no effect on the subject listed species or their critical habitat. However, consultation on this pesticide for these particular ESUs is nonetheless requested pursuant to a Consent Decree into which the EPA entered with Californians for Alternatives to Toxics. In that Decree, EPA agreed to request initiation of formal consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on particular pesticides/ESU combinations regardless of the outcome of our assessment.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this request or the materials I am submitting relevant to consultation.

attachments

Sincerely,

Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Chief
Environmental Field Branch
Office of Pesticide Programs (7506C)